REMARKS

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2003. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 9-11 were withdrawn from consideration in a previously filed paper. Independent claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged applicants' claim for foreign priority based on applications filed in Japan and noted that certified copies of such applications have not yet been filed. A letter enclosing certified copies of the priority documents was mailed on November 10, 2003 with mail certification. Entry of the claim for priority and acknowledgement of receipt of such documents is accordingly requested.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1-4, 8, 12-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lassiter (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,846). The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 5-7 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lassiter in view of either Driscoll, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969), Official Notice, or Busko et al. (U.S Patent No. 5,903,319). With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Independent claims 1, 12 and 20 are directed to a camera control system and corresponding method and storage medium for storing a program, respectively, for displaying a moving image outputted from a first image pickup device and processed by an image processing device, and for superimposing and displaying on the moving image a rectangular frame indicative of the image pickup area of a second image pickup device. Applicants' claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to recite that the display device displays the moving image from the second image pickup device together with the processed moving image

and the rectangular frame. Claims 1, 12 and 20 have been further amended to recite that a frame image included in the processed moving image of the first image pickup device is generated in response to a desired rectangular area within the moving image displayed by the display device being designated by a designating device.

The structure of the present invention permits wide range image and sensible range information to be displayed in real-time in response to operator's instructions, resulting in greatly improved operability of the camera. More particularly, as described in applicants' specification with respect to Figures 2 and 3, an operator can move frame 204 to designate a desired area within a moving image in the display window 203 and instruct a zooming operation of a second image pickup device (zoom camera portion 107), causing a control command C10 to be transmitted. Subsequent zoom and panhead operations and image processing operations cause frame B24 (also a moving image) to be generated and displayed together with rectangular indication frame 204 (Application page 17, line 3-page 18, line 15 and FIG. 3). According to the invention, a detailed moving image is presented simultaneously with the panoramic moving image that surrounds the detailed image in substantially real time. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner argues:

> "Lassiter discloses a camera control system comprising: first image pickup means ... to output a moving image (Column 16 lines 30-40); image processing means ... to correct distortion of the moving image outputted from said first image pickup means (Column 16 lines 30-40); second image pickup means ... for outputting a moving image (Column 5 lines 18-57, Column 7 line 7- Column 8 line 19); display means ... (Figures 5, 6 and 8, Column 7 line 7 - Column 8 line 19); designating means for designating a desired rectangular area ... (Figures 5, 6 and 8, Column 16 line 41 - Column 18 line 2); and control means ... (Column 9 lines 27-36, Column 16 line 30-Column 18 line 2)..."

Lassiter teaches a device in which a target or "panorama" scene 201 and a control scene 202, which is a defined region within the target scene 201, are displayed on a visual user interface 200. Filming direction and position are changed when the user changes the position of the control scene 202. Lassiter further teach in Col. 16, lines 3-40 that an inexpensive camera (single-CCD camera) including a wide-angle or "fish-eye" lens may be used for acquiring the target scene, and an expensive camera may be used for acquiring the control scene 202.

In Lassiter, therefore, the control scene 202 is used to change filming direction and position and, therefore, the panorama scene 201. However, nothing is taught or suggested in Lassiter as to the designation of the control scene 202 being used to generate a frame image from the panorama scene 201 to be displayed with the panorama scene.

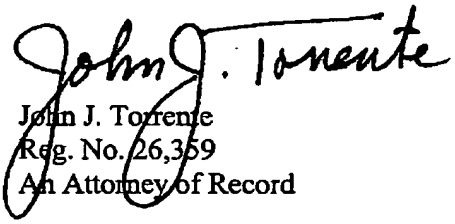
Applicants' claims 1, 12 and 20, in calling for displaying the moving image from said second image pickup means together with the processed moving image and the rectangular frame . . . designating a desired rectangular area within the displayed moving image . . . controlling at least one of panning, tilting and zooming of said second image pickup means in such a way as to pick up an image corresponding to the designated rectangular area . . . and wherein, a frame image included in the processed moving image of the first image pickup means to be displayed is generated in response that the desired rectangular area is designated, thus patentably distinguish over Lassiter. Driscoll, Jr. et al. and Busko et al. add nothing to Lassiter to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants'

counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: February 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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